

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00729 181736Z

63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 AID-20 OPR-02 A-01 SY-10 USSS-00 DRC-01 /206 W

----- 013290

R 181410Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2178

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MZ

SUBJ: BANK WORKERS DEMONSTRATE

1. IN A RARE PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF UNION ACTIVITY, SEVERAL HUNDRED BANKWORKERS DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO (BNU) HEADOFFICE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 17, WHILE NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT BETWEEN BANK WORKERS UNION AND MOZAMBICAN BANKS WENT ON WITHIN. THEY CHEERED UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND BOOED MANAGEMENT. LABOR INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY PANICKED AND POLICE WERE CALLED. POLICE CAME IN LARGE NUMBERS AND DISPERSED CROWD; WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY ARRESTS. RUMOR MILL INCLUDES SOME MORE LURID VERSIONS, INCLUDING ONE THAT WORKERS INVADED BANK (IT WAS WEDNESDAY HALF-HOLIDAY) TO BEAT UP PRIVILEGED WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN OFFERED OVERTIME.

2. LAST MAY BANK WORKERS CALLED FOR RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT SIGNED SEPTEMBER 9, 1971 BUT ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ONLY GOT

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00729 181736Z

UNDER WAY A FEW WEEKS AGO AND ARE NOW REACHING CRUCIAL QUESTIONS

OF SALARY, ETC., RESULTING IN WEDNESDAY'S DEMONSTRATION. NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BE WOUND UP THIS WEEK, WILL CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER WEEK, ACCORDING TO ONE BANK REPRESENTATIVE. ACCORDING ONE REPORT, NON-UNIONIZED (ALMOST ENTIRELY AFRICAN) CUSTODIAL STAFFS ARE ALSO DEMANDING SIGNIFICANT RAISES AND A REDUCTION IN THEIR WORKWEEK. (CUSTODIAL STAFF MUST ARRIVE BEFORE AND LEAVE AFTER OTHER PERSONNEL, AND WORK ALL DAY SATURDAY.)

3. COMMENT: NON-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS ARE RARE PHENOMENON IN MOZAMBIQUE; BANKWORKERS MAY BE COUNTING ON GOVERNMENT TO PUSH FOR A SETTLEMENT FAVORABLE TO THEM, AND TURN BLIND EYE ON UNION ACTIVITIES, BECAUSE OF ITS TRADITIONAL DESIRE TO PROJECT AN ATMOSPHERE OF EUPHORIA DURING PRE-ELECTION PERIODS.

VAN OSS

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